

THE OBSERVER



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Nichols Puts Core Program's Best Foot Forward

Dr. John Nichols, has not been around SJC much over the last year. Between meetings in Washington D.C. and conferences across the nation, Dr. Nichols has spent the last year walking the cutting edge of higher education. After years of service to future generations at SJC Nichols, a veteran of higher education was appointed Senior Fellow at the Association of American Colleges and Universities. With this new honor came a unique opportunity to work with educators from across the country.

The "Washington Project" as he calls it, brought educators from all walks and branches of the field together. Joining Dr. Nichols on the project were representatives from each of the six regional accrediting agencies. Among those representatives, was a member of our own accrediting agency, North Central. Completing the project team were five representatives from specialized accreditors and eight representatives from the most influential higher education associations.

The motivation for this study came from a Department of Education push to hold accrediting institutions accountable for revising and

reviewing their policies with regards to general education. In short the accreditors are increasing the emphasis placed on liberal arts as a part of general education.

"Specialized accreditors switched



Dr. John Nichols has spent the past year on sabbatical working on SJC self assessment and as a Senior Fellow for the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

cultural sensitivity and a sense of self," said Nicholas. "Notice the similarities to Core. Specialized accreditors are the best friend a program like Core has!"

The project group was assembled to influence accreditation agencies during their reevaluation of their own standards and processes. The primary focus of the group was to serve as an advocate for a greater emphasis on liberal education. After many years of experience with SJC's Core Program, Dr. Nichols was well prepared to lead

Nick Schafer
News Editor

documents coming out of this project. Not only is there a lot of SJC in the model for undergraduate education developed through this project, but SJC is the institution in the country [that is] closest to being a good example of this model, if we choose to develop a minor number of things," Nichols commented.

Throughout the course of their five meetings across the country the task force ironed out consensus statements regarding mission, outcomes, curriculum, pedagogy, and an assessment of 21st century liberal education. In the end the group developed a single thesis, that "liberal education must be a collaboration between general education and the major [or professional] education."

The task force strove to unify faculty members that teach in general education and major or professional education. This problem is foreign to SJC, because in the Core program general education classes are taught by members of the

this group.

"You will find a lot of the SJC experience with Core and majors in the

major or professional education faculty. At SJC there is a high level of cooperation and interdepartmental collaboration. This is just one way in which SJC served as a model for the group's study.

A brochure laying out the groups findings was published in January of 2002 and a short book, written by Dr. Nichols, will follow up in August. Both documents are valuable pieces of information for members of academia, because they document a shift in the educational focus of many institutions.

Though he has returned to SJC, he will continue to remain active in

the groups work until the projects ending date in July of 2002. In retrospect, Dr. Nichols could not be happier to have been involved with such a project.

"I myself found this whole thing to be an exhilarating experience—not only to be working with top-notch

people from these various organizations, but discovering that the many things I have been privileged to do at SJC over the years prepared me to lead them in this project," he said.

Photos courtesy of Nick Schafer and John Ligda



One of the products of the "Washington Project" is a brochure that outlines the findings of the group.

Habifest 2002 Sweeps SJC

Once again the Core program has taught students outside of the classroom. In conjunction with the SJC Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Core X students worked to bring awareness to the SJC and Rensselaer communities.

On April 10th, Habitat Chapters throughout the nation held similar

events to raise awareness about homelessness and poverty.

The SJC events were planned by senior Core X students Theresa Kreinbrink and Amanda Kiral. Kreinbrink organized the theme lunch that was held in SJC's Halleck Student Center Cafeteria. "The theme lunch in the café was started to make

student aware of how lucky they are, but shaking up their lunch," Kreinbrink said.

Instrumental to the success of the theme lunch was Director of Food Services, Steve Santo and his staff. Their cooperation made the entire event possible. "It was a great cause to make people aware of what SJC stu-

dents do with Habitat and I was very grateful my staff participated," Santo said, "I was very proud of them!"

Reaching out to the community Amanda Kiral spearheaded the effort to spread awareness throughout Rensselaer neighborhoods.

~Nicholas Schafer, News Editor

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First Year Equals Success

Job well done for Dr. Mills and Liz

John Ligda

As the academic year winds down here at S.J.C., so concludes Dr. Ernest Mill's first year as President of the College.

It has been quite a year for the Saint Joe family, with a new President, new faculty and staff members and of course a new freshman class, and Dr. Mills has definitely done his part to stand out and make a home here at S.J.C. Who can ever forget his inauguration and welcoming reception in August? Looking back, I can remember many students, including some close friends of mine, who were quite curious about the new president and how he would fit in 'Puma country'.

Well, I for one am quite impressed with Dr. Mills and his wife Liz. They've done a great job for the SJC community and I believe that they have done a lot of work and made a lot of friends and admirers in the short time that they have been here. They are definitely a visible part of the Saint Joe's scene. The Mills attend almost every student banquet and awards dinner. They eat in the café regularly and often pass up an opportunity to eat with fellow colleagues

so that they can sit and socialize with students. The "First Couple" has opened up their own home too for dinner parties to such groups as student government leaders, student scholars and athletes, just to name a few. When Dr. Mills isn't visiting with students in and around campus, he's hard at work raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for Saint Joe. Whenever Dr. Mills is out of town, which is quite frequently, he makes it a point to visit with alumni and friends of the college who live in the general vicinity of the conference he is attending. This year, his trips have included Florida, New York, Washington D.C. and appointments throughout the Midwest.

Dr. Mills has taken time to meet privately with every member of the Board of Trustees to discuss the short and long term goals of the college. He has taken time to highlight the people and programs of Saint Joe whenever possible. Every new social event that he has suggested has turned out to be a huge success, including the dinner for major donors following the Feast of Lessons and

Carols, the Leadership Prayer Breakfast for local community leaders, and the reception held this past Friday before the spring musical. All of these efforts are helping the college come one step closer towards "hitting the target" of balancing the budget, increasing enrollment, and increasing salaries for faculty and staff.

Two of the outstanding accomplishments during Dr. Mills' short term in office have been the success of the Scholarship Dinner and the balancing of the budget. During the weekend of Little 500, the Scholarship Dinner, held in Chicago, was able to net \$100,000, approximately \$20,000 more than last year. Also, Dr. Mills along with the Office of Institutional Advancement is looking toward a balanced budget for the first time in nearly five years. This, in and of itself, is an incredible accomplishment for a President who has only been in office since July. It sure looks like good times are ahead for Saint Joe, and much of it is due to the hard work of our 14th President Dr. Ernest Mills III. So, if you see Dr. Mills and Liz around campus, make it a point to stop and congratulate them on a first year "Job Well Done"!

Letter to the Editor

A departing senior feels bitter about the future of SJC

Alumni and my fellow students, to make an assessment of the current situation on SJC campus all I want to say is this. In the past year there have been many changes occurring at our college. Traditions have been broken, rules have been enforced, leadership roles have been changed, and the police are now who govern us. To the alumni who fund over 20% of financial needs, and student body who fund about 60%, I can say that this year has crossed a threshold to where I'm at the point of telling high school graduates not to go here. My own sister has been accepted here and I've told her not to attend. I don't want her to spend four years of college at a place ran this poorly. She could get better experiences and a better education elsewhere.

What has made this place great for me is the people. Getting to know a wide variety of people very well and calling them my family. I truly and sincerely believe that my sister would not get that here anymore. The college atmosphere that I was introduced to has been replaced by administration running the school instead of the student body. As freshmen we saw upperclassmen set the rules and regulations that we lived by. "Hold on to your Puma Guide, because the rules you go in with are the rules that you leave with." Was that not what was said? How effective was it this Little 500 weekend to break up everything that resembled people having fun? Is this college? Let us make our own mistakes to learn from.

Students ask around to see how many people were written up this weekend? Why don't seniors associate with underclassmen anymore? Because the liabilities of getting your apartment busted with underclassmen in it are ridiculous. To John Keller, the one who is making all these new rules, I ask are we all criminals? This is one of the most prestigious colleges in the Midwest, producer of people that support over 20% of your daily activities. Are they different from us? Are they criminals too? If this current situation continues to exist, alumni, I strongly advise a look at new leadership at SJC. - An Upset Senior

Two Students View SJC As a Trap

"My first question is to the administration. What have you done to earn your paycheck this year? In simpler terms what have you done that is positive for SJC this year?

Security....enough said! In simpler terms, What are they doing? What gives them the right to walk through our living barracks in the middle of the night? Are there no rights? In my condo in Chicago, the police just do not walk through my condo and look for trouble or loud noise! What gives our security to do something like this? Last time I checked, there is a thing called the constitution. HAVE WE EVER HEARD OF THAT? Another thing, I am paying too much money to go here. This place traps people, then they nickel and dime you. Because of the Core program I choose not to transfer because I am not becoming a doctor, so therefore I do not have to go to school for seven years. Due to the Core program however, I have to stay because credits do not transfer over to other schools. So when they trap you they decide, "What the heck, we'll charge them everything they have and raise tuition every year (more than any other school in Indiana) because what the heck, they are not going anywhere."

Fines? They are brutal! Since when does one cigarette butt on the floor cost six dollars? I can buy twenty smokes for two dollars and fifty cents. Where does all this dorm money go too? RA programs? What are they? We have a tyrant RA boss who thinks she is terrific and can do no wrong. That is appalling. Does the number ten sound familiar? That is the average turn out for one of these splendid programs.

In conclusion, I will never give a cent to this school when I leave. Why should I? The only people that have given me anything here at SJC are the professors, brothers, and priests." ~Thomas Czepiel and Girard Hendelman

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The Observer would like to congratulate the class of 2002. We wish you the best of luck and success on all of your endeavors!

Scenes From Little 500



Race Results

Car Position	Laps Completed	Car#	Driver's Name
1	213	8	Randy Peck
2	210	12	Bill Hardy
3	209	4	Rhiannon Davis
4	207	7	Sara Nothnagel
5	204	3	Greg Rathnow
6	204	13	Kris Krouse
7	195	30	Trent Ridgeway
8	194	24	Jeff White
9	190	73	Polly Rainey
10	189	37	Dace McNelis
11	164	32	Jusitn Terria
12	126	99	Omar Ruiz



Favorite Profs Honored at Annual ALD Dinner

Susan Huss
Features Editor

On Wednesday, April 16, sophomores from Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) Honor Society held their annual dinner, honoring some of Saint Joseph's College's finest professors. Each ALD member who attended could bring their favorite professor. ALD members, under Marge McIlwain's leadership, cooked the food for the dinner and made short speeches about why they picked this particular professor. The attendees are honored professors were:

Lea Heishman - Sally Nesselrode
Beth Morris - Bob Dusek
Eric Hall - Bill White
Luke Hansen - Peter Watkins
Billie Gleason - John Egan
Kate Nowalk - Tim McFarland
Maggie Makovec and Hilarie Haste - John Larson
Melissa Genova, Shenley Roberts, and Angie Williams - William Mottolose
Megan Ratterman - Bob Brodman
Mark Brouwer - John Rahe
Shannon Cheek - William Stang
Theresa Yoder and Carolyn Weber - Tom Ryan
Girard Hendelman - Walter Scherb
Susan Huss - Gwyn Skrobul
Eric Klepinger - Paul Magro
Alexis Virtue - Bonnie Zimmer
Stephen Kraemer - David Chesak

"It meant a great deal to me. In fact, I'm on something of a high right now. I hadn't been to one of these before, and I didn't know what to expect, so I was honored, even blown away, by the genuine praise from the students. Also what an impressive group of students in ALD -- no shortage of intelligence, class, and eloquence." ~William Mottolose

"I was very moved and extremely honored by the kind words students said about faculty and how each faculty member has impacted their lives in one way or another. The "favorite professor" dinner is an experience that I'll never forget. And the student who invited me is extremely special...a relationship I will always cherish!" ~Sally Nesselrode

"People who teach and seek a better understanding of the world hope that their life's work will make a difference. I can think of no better honor than to have my student tell me that I have made a positive impact on her and her classmates. Thank you Megan [Ratterman], this will help me to carry on." ~Bob Brodman

"Thank you very much, to all of you who made that dinner possible. As I said in my prayer, we need to take time to reflect on and embrace our successes. Our fine teachers are a big part of our success. Your willingness to say "Thank you" so graciously shows you have learned something greater than knowledge, you have learned to appreciate." ~William Stang, C.P.P.S.

Here's what some of the honorees had to say about being invited to the dinner:

"For me it meant that I need to keep trying new ways of teaching history. I teach very differently now than I did 20 years ago, and someone appreciated the evolution. Just as I didn't settle then for one approach, I shouldn't get too comfortable now." ~Bill White

"I consider being invited to the ALD dinner the highest honor. It tells me that I'm doing something right. You see, teaching is not what I "do," it's who I am. I am devoted to making your learning experiences valuable, worthwhile, and memorable. Education is not about the teacher- it's about the student. You give us the opportunity to help you grow. What an awesome opportunity! It is wonderful to know that sometimes I can be a part of that growth." ~Gwyn Skrobul

"To be honored at the dinner was a thrill, but just knowing that I've made a difference in at least one student's life was even more of an honor. In my first year at SJC, it has been a learning experience for me as well, getting to know the students and the college. While I try to constantly challenge myself to make my classes the best I can for my students, it is heartening to have students tell me that and give that kind of feedback that will challenge me even more to make them even better." ~Paul Magro

Another Camping Retreat Kicks Off

Are you looking for some time to get off campus and take a break from studying for finals? That is exactly what 28 students are going to be doing from April 26-28 on the Spring Camping Retreat.

Senior Theresa Kreinbrink, a veteran of the retreat, stated, "The camping retreat is one of my favorite weekends on campus."

The retreat is sponsored by campus ministry. It will be held at the Tippecanoe River State Park in Winamac.

Tim Hemm summed it up, "The state park is a very special place...and many people, after going to the camping retreat just once, sense that it is a special place that's just there, and you can feel it when you get out of the vehicle and first begin to walk around the park."

Those who will experience this opportunity include: seniors Mike Eckhardt, David McNelis, Mandy Meyers, and Ary Nelson; juniors Julianne Adams, Amy Buckbee, Sean Egan, Sarah Hachey, Lisa Scherb, Jen Sherburne, Donald Shuler, Sarah Sikkema, and Justin Walters; sophomores Annie Domasica, Lisa Fruecht, Luke Hansen, Kristen Putt, Claudia Sadowski, Mike Tebbe, and Jackie Whan; and freshmen Lisa Grilliot, Mark Merchant, Angie Quartuccio, Elizabeth Scholl, and Veronica Shook. Former SJC student Rachel Benardin, SJC graduate Jamie Portal, and Jim Nelson, husband of Ary Nelson, will also attend. Tim Hemm, C.P.P.S, and senior Theresa Kreinbrink have put much time and effort into planning and organizing the retreat to make it a memorable and worthwhile experience for all.

SJC students and staff will conduct the retreat. It will consist of time for sharing, praying, reading, and even walks in the woods as a time to relax. "Storytelling" is the theme for this year's retreat. Students who choose will be given the opportunity to share their own personal faith journey.

Katie Davet
Reporter

Everyone is encouraged to bring along their favorite books and music.

The group will leave Saint Joseph's College at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26, and return at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 28. Students can bring their study materials if they need quiet time to focus on their finals.

"The camping retreat is a very laid back retreat experience...there is ample time for prayer and reflection, as well as studying, hiking, sitting in the sun (or shade), and just being with friends and making new friends," Hemm said.

The spring camping retreat has a long history and has undergone a lot of changes, too.

"I have been on seven camping retreats in the past four years, and every time I go, they get better and better," Kreinbrink said.

Students also find time on the retreat to look at their lives in a different way.

"No matter what is going on in my life, I always make time to go on the camping retreat because I know that when I go, everything will be put in perspective," Kreinbrink said.

If you are interested in going on the camping retreat, you can call or email Tim Hemm, C.P.P.S, or Theresa Kreinbrink. The trip costs 25 dollars; it is on a first-come-first-served basis.

"It's a great way to end up the school year and to prepare for the summer," Hemm said.

The *Observer* would like to congratulate all the award winners at the April 16 Honors and Awards Dinner, including Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S, winner of this year's Teaching Excellence Award.

The End of the Road:

SJC Seniors Get Ready to Say Goodbye

Colleen Flynn
Reporter

The class of 2002 has a limited time on the SJC campus. With graduation approaching, the senior class has realized that their time here at SJC has almost expired, and the real world is rapidly approaching them. Many of the seniors are ready to head out and conquer the world.

Brian Eddy stated, "My plans for the future, after I grow up, is to become President of the United States of America, with Luke Hansen as my Vice President. What I am going to miss at SJC is the camaraderie with my professors." Holly Copeland has decided to move to Indianapolis upon graduation. She plans to teach during the day and attend law school during her evenings.

"I love SJC, even the gossip; it makes life interesting," she said. "I'm going to miss my friends, and so much of my time at SJC was dedicated to soccer and athletics that that is going to be especially hard to walk away from. My best times at SJC were on the soccer field. The best memories are from road trips with the team—we were always laughing and having fun. Most of our secrets and stories were shared here, so I know I will always remember those times. My friendships are the best things about SJC. I don't know what I would have done without them the past four years. I just wish there would have been a few more things to do in Rensselaer, such as a movie theatre or more restaurants."

David McNelis feels that he is ready to move on to new scenery. After participating in Little 500 this year, he has truly lived this year to the fullest.

He said, "I am going to miss the people I've grown close to in my time here. Even though some of those friendships last a lifetime, some I may never see again. I don't have any plans, and I'm scared to death. I have no job and don't want to move back home, and I'm leaving my friends behind and don't know who I'll have to fall back to when I'm down."

Tim Nelson, a Gallagher resident, is doting on the restful environment that he experienced here at SJC.

"I am going to miss my friends, partying with everyone, and being lazy all day," he said. However, I look forward to making money, supporting myself, coming back and being able to buy beer for all my [21 year old] friends at the bar."

Michelle McWalter believes that the best time at SJC was the time that was spent with her girls. She stated, "I love all of my pumas!"

McWalter is looking forward to having her own classroom to conduct. Her job search has been in Illinois, but she hopes to find a job in the Chicago area.

She stated, "I am scared of the future but also excited. I am scared of not finding a job, and I am scared of what is going to happen with my friends and I now that we are leaving our SJC home. At SJC, you really have to create your own fun and just learn to relax and go with the flow. This is a really close campus with a great family atmosphere. I think the senior events are so important to seniors, and they are times when the whole class can be together and just really bond. It brings the seniors closer together. However, I hate the absolute control that is starting to happen. There should be rules and regulations, but we are in college, and let's remember these are the greatest years of our lives."

Tinley Park native Keith Nawrocki will no longer be gracing the pitching mound at SJC's baseball field. He is looking forward to the future without any fears to begin an independent baseball contract. His favorite memory at SJC was the naked runs, a favorite pastime of the baseball team.

"Senior banquet was cool, senior pub night was awesome, but champagne breakfast was brutal," he said.

Katherine Conlon, also known as "Bug," can't wait to get out and make some money, but she admits that she will miss her friends.

She said, "The senior events were awesome! There should be more [events] like this. At SJC everyone is close, friendly, and safe. I'm scared of not getting a job."

Megan Taylor plans on entering the Police Academy in August. She is moving to Colorado and is nervous about her new beginnings.

She stated, "I love my class! I am going to miss the people. My professors have been so amazing. I have learned more about who I am and what I want to do than any other place could've taught me. I have made so many friends here that are on a much deeper level than anyone I have encountered before college. I don't know how I will live without them right around the corner. I have so many favorite memories here at SJC. I guess one would have to be Little 500 this year. I had a blast."

This year's senior class was a group of motivated, spirited adults. Although SJC will miss these individuals terribly, they will find success in the outside world. However, we do expect them to return and visit in the near future. To the class of 2002: SJC wishes you the best of luck!

CAREER CENTER CONNECTIONS

Kelli Bridges
Reporter

Seniors: Are you ready to play the game of your first year on the job? You better know the rules!

Seniors, graduation is right around the corner, so many of you will be starting your career over the summer or in August. Do you realize that your long-term career success can depend on how well you perform during your first year in the work force? For those of you who think that you just graduate and go straight to work, you should read this article and take notes!

The first year on a new job is a distinct career stage that is part of the transition stage. You are no longer a college student, but are not yet a professional either. Realizing that the first year of work is different than the rest of your career is critical in understanding what going to work really means. It takes time to become a full fledged professional and, earn rights, responsibilities, and credibility. When entering the work force, you are the new kid on the block and will have to play the game that all first year graduates play when entering their career. The key is to have a strong start to do this, one must have enough knowledge to have decent expectations and attitudes. You must also know how to establish yourself, learn the way things are done, and learn what you need to do to earn respect and integrity.

So why does all of this matter? Your early successes and opportunities will come from your work ethic and the impressions you make on people. Think about this: research shows that your work behavior in the first year will have a major effect on your future salary, advancement, job satisfaction, and the ability to move up the ladder. You want to leave an impression by being intelligent, capable, and a valuable employee. If you can leave this impression with colleagues, then you will more than likely be recognized by upper management for your efforts.

What happens if you get off to a bad start? Your colleagues will look down on you, and less important assignments will be given to you. Your first year does not necessarily predict that the future will be bad for your career, but why risk leaving a bad impression and scarring the beginning of your career?

Here are some tips to help ease your first year jitters:

i. Slow down - earn acceptance from your colleagues; make a positive impression by not showing how much you do know, but how much you do not know (eyes and ears open, mouth shut).

ii. Learn the culture - how to behave, the politics, how things are done, what is expected of you, what the mission of the company is, and how people work together and communicate.

iii. Manage a good impression - a lot of people will be watching you, so it is necessary to build a strong professional foundation. Organizations want individuals who have good judgement, can accept change, can build relationships with colleagues, and have confidence in their potential. They also want to see that your expectations are in check. The most important thing is your attitude, so prove to them that you are ready to earn your spot with the company.

iv. Manage your expectations - keep your expectations realistic, expect to be surprised, and remember that your first job probably will not be as glamorous as you imagine.

v. Become a savvy subordinate - your boss will be the most important person in your first year of work. Learn what your boss wants, expects, and needs. And make your boss look good and you should succeed. Remember that to become a good leader you must first be a good subordinate; also remember that a bad boss is not good excuse for a bad performance.

This article is not meant to intimidate you, but instead it is get you thinking realistically about your first year on the job. Good luck in finding a job, and best wishes in all of your endeavors, Class Of 2002!

Source:

Holton, Ed. "The Critical First Year on the Job". Job Choices. 2000: 79-85.

Puma Profile: Mark Grueter

Melissa Genova
Sports Editor

Hailing all the way from Vancouver, British Columbia, Mark Grueter has proved himself a worthy contender on SJC's tennis team, but has also proved that he is more than just a talented athlete and a pretty face. He recently played Sir Studley in the Columbian Players sponsored play "Once upon a Mattress" which closed last weekend. He has a range of skills that have enabled this marketing major to make an impression on campus.

He rejoined the team for the spring season after taking off a semester to travel and work. Grueter played in the #1 spot on the team, and found himself being challenged by the position. "It has given me the opportunity to improve a lot. There was some really tough competition. We played some amazing team. We played teams that were top in the nation in Florida," said Grueter.

Although the team came out of the season with only four wins against twenty losses and one tie, Grueter anticipates next season. "I go for this season for personal improvements and achievements," he said. "I would like to see the team improve more. And I would like to be a part of that."

The last match of the season was against Bethel, in which SJC pulled a win of 6-3. "Everyone played well," said Grueter. But the only victories were not just at the end of the season. There was a string of wins that Grueter felt were the highlight of the season. "I

pulled out Quincy Lewis, and Northern Kentucky," said Grueter of these three wins. "They were all two hour plus matches, three sets long. I feel as though mental toughness helped me out. It felt good," he said.

The team chemistry, Grueter explained, was similar to that of any collegiate sport. "There is a lot of different personalities and some clashes, but that happens when you spend a lot of time with people. Overall, we get along," he said. Grueter suffered a knee injury, as well, during the close of the season. The primary cause of the injury was simply due to Grueter's years of athletics and over working the joint.

Grueter not only shares his tennis skills with SJC. He competes in the Intermural hockey team and is considering trying out and getting involved with the soccer team.

Grueter has had a history of various sports, but tennis is the one that he has found the most satisfaction in. He has been playing the sport since the age of 12, and it was his father that encouraged him in tennis. "I played pretty much every sport under the sun. Tennis was more natural. I decided to stick to it because my dad played," said Grueter. "I sort of liked it better than other sports. It's a social game, can be played my whole life, it's good for business and help me to meet people, and can keep me in shape my whole life unlike some other sports," he explained. Soccer, track and basketball were among the other athletics that Grueter played until college.

Grueter was an accomplished tennis player long before his days at SJC. He was the winner of the Under 18 Provincial Championships in British Co-

lumbia.

Besides athletics, Grueter has been exploring new territory and networking in his spare time. A novice to the thespian life, his role as Sir Studley was his onstage debut. He is not a stranger to the camera, however, having taken off time during the semester to try his hand at modeling. "It just fell in my lap, but it is on the side burner right now," he said. "It is pretty much what is paying for school right now." Although his face may not be currently in lights, it can be viewed in Abercrombie catalogues, GQ, and other media.

There were other advantages to this experience, too. "I traveled a hell of a lot because of it and have seen a lot of different life," said Grueter. "By doing this I'm trying to diversify things - being involved with the play and such. I want to build a resume and make

myself as marketable as I can be to prepare myself best for the professional world. It is a harder world out there," said Grueter.



Mark Grueter
stats

year: Junior
Sport: Tennis, #1 Position
Record for singles: 9-11
Hometown: Vancouver, BC

Grueter being a feature tennis player to SJC has the obvious advantage to the team as a talented and experienced athlete. However, the diversification and range of his abilities proves that he has much more to offer to campus life in general.

Puma Baseball: The Battle They Will Not Quit

Bridget Newman
Reporter

The baseball team's performance on Wednesday April 17th's double header exemplifies the season the team has had so far; they won a game and lost a game. The team lost its first five games and won its next five games. Since then, the team's victories and losses have been dispersed pretty evenly.

"[Rick O'Dette] knows what players are thinking. He knows what we want and what we don't want," Keith Nawrocki.

As of Wednesday, the Pumas were 9-10 in conference and 21-20-2 overall. The two ties were against Valparaiso University and Findlay University. The biggest loss the team took was only a four-point game. The

biggest win, though, was an 8-point spread against Assumption; the score was 13-5.

Sophomore Dave Fussell says of the team's performance so far, "We're coming along well. We've had a couple of tough losses, but the team is still young." Fussell, a 6'3" 1st baseman from Crestwood, Illinois said the four seniors on the team have all been great leaders. They are Ryan Myszak, Jeff Myszak, Mark Stasch, and Keith Nawrocki.

Keith Nawrocki, a 6'3" pitcher

from Tinley Park, Illinois attributes some of the team's losses to their inability to realize their full potential. "We're not as good as we hoped," he said, "but we're still strong."

Both Nawrocki and Fussell agree their wins have a lot to do with Coach Rick O'Dette. This is only O'Dette's second year as the Puma baseball coach. He graduated from Saint Joseph's College in 1999 and was a starting pitcher for the Pumas. "He's awesome," Nawrocki

commented. "He knows what players are thinking. He knows what we want and we don't want."

Fussell, too, noted, "He's great. He knows the game better than anyone I've ever had as a coach before."

Perhaps as the Pumas grow as a team their number of wins will steadily increase. In the meantime, though, the young team continues to battle for a place in the championships.

The Puma Sports in Short...

Looking at the season with a Bang, Kick, Whack, Whoosh and A-Par.

Tennis: The season officially ended on April 16, and the team took a win against Bethel College with a final score of 6-3. Mark Grueter, Lance Crow, Tom Ruth, Greg Gulvas, and Mike Parrish were the singles winners. The teams of Mark Grueter/Tom Ruth and Greg Gulvas/Mike Parrish also came out with wins.

Softball: The girls won 2 out of their three games over the weekend. The first game on Friday, Apr. 19, they lost 3-2. However in the second game of the evening, they defeated Ferris State with a score of 6-4.

In the final game of the weekend against Lake Superior State, the Pumas won with a final score of 9-1.

Baseball: The team lost two out of their three games over the weekend. All three games were played against Quincy University. The first game, the Pumas lost with a score of 2-1. However, the second game was in SJC's favor with a score of 5-4. The Sunday game went to Quincy University. The score was 10-5.

Little 500 Weekend is More than Just a Celebration : It's a Race!!!



With the games, beer/braut tent, and parties, many forget the hard work that the drivers put into the actual race during Little 500

Rebecca Scherer
Reporter

Perhaps the most anticipated weekend on campus all year long, the 40th annual Little 500 has come and gone. No one could have hoped for better weather, and as the temperature rose so did the spirits of everyone involved in the weekend's activities.

Months of planning and anticipation made the race a huge event. I really think that, in general, people tend to forget about the amount of work put into an event of this size and caliber. Not only the planning on behalf of those executives in charge, but also the preparation of the drivers. I think that sometimes we tend to overlook the fact that the drivers have just as much work to do as anyone else involved. Like and athlete training for an Olympic event, they first have to find enough sponsors, which is a chore in and of itself. Then comes finding some-

one to rent the kart from, building the kart, learning how to use it, and learning the skills behind being a good driver. I personally had no clue how much time and energy each driver invested into the race. Each driver starts with an empty go-kart frame. They then get the engine, chain, and clutch, among other parts, and have to set up the kart themselves. They spend the week before the race in the barns hooking up their karts. That alone sounds intimidating enough for me, but for someone like Bill Hardy, second place winner, who has had experience in racing, that is the best part. Bill has done his fair share of racing on actual tracks before, but was still a little hesitant while preparing for Little 500. "I didn't think I would do as well as I did," he said. To try and appease his fears, Bill talked to previous drivers who gave him tips on how to take the sharp turns and how to keep his speed up. Through the whole thing, he never lost sight of his father's advice to crouch down on the straight aways. Bill's big-

gest piece of advice to offer to any new drivers? "Drink lots of water before the race so that you won't cramp up while you're driving. You don't want that to happen." Bill's biggest mistake and the spill that cost him the race happened two hours into the event when he spun out and hit a tree. I don't think he has anything to feel bad about, however. His 210 laps were just a hair shy of first place winner's Randy Peck's (SJC employee, RPM Racing) 213 laps. As an entering freshman with no previous experience in Little 500, I'd say that we can all be proud of Bill's accomplishment. "It was definitely exciting to come as close as I did, especially being a freshman. I will definitely race again next year."

Bill raced for Feddar Chetti Racing, a spoof off Cheddar Fetti brand name crackers. Be sure to congratulate Bill and all the other racers for making the 2002 Little 500 Weekend a huge success.

Track and Field Results: SJC Hosted the Meet this Weekend

Both the women's and men's teams placed fourth out of nine teams. The individual results are as follow:

Natalie Salinas won an athletic award as well, at the meet, for Freshman Athlete of the year.

The athletes who recieved GLVC honors were:

Melissa Kleinmaus : 2nd/400 hurdles/ 1:05.47

1st/heptathlon/3,984 points

Alexis Virtue : 1st/10,000/38:31.20

Anne Balmes : 2nd/pole vault/9'06"

Natalie Salinas : 2nd/discus/ 40.36meters

2nd hammer 40.10 meters

Roger Driver : 2nd/200/22.53

Tim Newman : 2nd/1500/4:02.04

Jason Johnson : 2nd/110/hurdles 15.80

2nd long jump 7.01meters

Josh Hughes : 2nd/high jump/1.98 meters

1st long jump 7.28 meters

2nd triple jump 13.39 meters

Taylor Treesh : 1st/discus/47.74 meters

Other top finishers:

Fallon Lane: 8th/400/1:02.45

Jamie Marshall : 6th/400 hurdles/ 1:08.81

Juli Myers : 7th/400 hurdles/1:09.35

Dani Ramirez: 8th/3k steeplehcase/ 12:57.67

Women's 4x100 Relay/4th/51.75

Lindsay Bridwell: 8th/high jump/ 1.4 meters

Amy Harrell : 8th/pole/vault 7'06

Natalie Salinas 5th shot put 9.98 meters

Kristen Gandurski : 7th/shotput/ 9.61 meters

7th hammer 24.70 meters

Melissa Kleinmaus : 6th/ javelin/ 27.07 meters

Roger Driver : 5th/400/48.89

Matt Stout : 3rd/10,000/33:41.10

Jason Johnson: 7th/400/hurdles 1:00.34

Tim Newman: 4th/3K steeplechase 9:39.60

Men's 4x100 Relay 4th 43.45

Men's 4x400 Relay 3:31.23

Maurice Perkins : 3rd/long jump 6.82 meters

Melissa Kleinmaus : 2nd/400 hurdles 1:05.47

1st/heptathlon/ 3,984 points

Alexis Virtue : 1st /10,000 /38:31.20

Anne Balmes : 2nd/pole vault/9'06"

Natalie Salinas: 2nd/discus/40.36 meters

2nd/hammer/40.10 meters

Roger Driver : 2nd/200/22.53

Tim Newman : 2nd/1500/4:02.04

Jason Johnson : 2nd/110/hurdles 15.80

2nd/long jump/7.01

Josh Hughes: 2nd/high jump/1.98 meters

1st long jump 7.28 meters

2nd triple jump 13.39 m

Taylor Treesh: 1st/discus/47.74 meters

The Pumas will be once again hosting a meet this weekend at 10 am

Upcoming Events

Apr. 27

Softball : Kentucky Wesleyan HOME 1 pm

Baseball : Southern Indiana AWAY noon

Track and Field: Puma Invitational HOME

Apr. 28

Softball : Bellarmine University HOME noon

Baseball : Southern Indiana AWAY noon

May 1

Baseball : Lewis University AWAY noon

May 2

Softball : GLVC Tournament (May 2-4) AWAY

May 4

Baseball : Bellarmine University HOME noon

Track and Field : Butler Invitational at IUPUI AWAY 2 pm

May 5

Baseball : Bellarmine University HOME noon

May 6

Baseball : GLVC Makeups take place between May 6 & 7

May 9

Baseball : GLVC Tournament (May 9 - 12)

May 10

Track and Field : North Central College AWAY 10 am

May 23

Track and Field : Outdoor National Championships at Angelo State (between May 23 - 25 if SJC qualifies) AWAY

The Observer Sports Staff would like to wish the best of luck to all of our Graduating Athletes,!!! And to all our returning readers, have a fabulous and safe summer!

Fast Facts

Studies have confirmed that men who are exposed to a lot of toxic chemicals, high heat, un-usual pressures (jet pilots, deep-sea divers) are more prone to father girls than boys.

Plants in the mint family have been used for centuries by people as anti-spasmodics. Current studies suggest that ingesting peppermint oil (available in capsule form) helps relieve internal gas and bloating.

Emerson Moser, who was Crayola's senior crayon maker, revealed upon his retirement that he was blue-green colorblind and couldn't see all the colors. He molded over 1.4 billion crayons in his 37-year career.

Early hand-held lights used carbo-zinc batteries that did not last very long. To keep the light burning required that the user turn it on for a short time and then turn it off to allow the battery to recover. That's how they became known as a "flashlight."

The famed Alcatraz prison in San Francisco was first used as a prison by the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Numerous escape attempts were attempted; however, there is no firm evidence that any succeeded. The word alcatraz is Spanish for "pelican."

Noah Webster was referred to as "the walking question mark" during his student days at Yale.

The Chinese drink an average of just eight soft drinks per year, and only one (or less) is a Coca-Cola product.

On the average, there are eight peas in a pod

In 1994, the National League and American League Baseball M.V.P.s were Jeff Bagwell and Frank Thomas, respectively. Jeff and Frank were both born on the exact same day: May 27, 1968.

courtesy of uselessknowledge.com

Good Luck to All of the Seniors!

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.



From left to right: Mandy Meyers, Sara Post, Mike Potts, Charley Kerlin, Tina Carroll. Not pictured Bree Ma'Ayteh. Photo's courtesy of John Ligda.

The Observer Staff would like to send their best wishes to all of the senior members of the staff. Your example and experience has been invaluable. Thank You for everything, and Good Luck!



A special Thanks to the Senior Editors: Sara Post and Mandy Meyers. Girls you have taught me so much over the past two three years, THANK YOU! I Love you two, and I will miss you a lot.
~Schafer

For Hope

Why won't she play with me?
We shared the same womb,
Were born by one C-Section,
Spent our first weeks
in the hospital.
I left two weeks before you.
Is that why you're mad at me?

When I reach for you hand,
You pull away and bang your head.
If I cross over onto your cushion,
You scream and clam up.
When I try to share,
You cry and push me away.

I do not understand.
Why don't you love me
The way I love you?

~Susan Huss

Heart of Darkness

the demons inside
rage to get out
trying to conquer the ice cold veins
that race inside
the ugliness of happiness
stands undisturbed
wondering of the natural life
that blends from the fantasy world
bad things fall from above
trying to think of positive ideas
nothing really working at all
since the heart of stone
displays nothing good at all
trying to stop corruption
as the evil inside fades from fantasy
i am thrown back into reality of the world

~Timothy Hayes

Vocab Boosters

Sibyl: Pronunciation: /sih-behl/ n : a female prophet or fortune-teller "Mother always treated Selena as if she were the family sibyl, able to predict her evil twin's fate."

Chicanery: Pronunciation: /shi-KANE-er-ee/ n : trickery, deception "Honesty, not chicanery, will get you more dates."

Secular: Pronunciation: /SEK-yuh-lur/ adj : worldly rather than religious or spiritual, temporal "The country's secular and religious leaders all agree on this issue."

Propinquity: Pronunciation: /pro-PING-kwi-ty/ n : nearness in place "The hotel was favored because of its propinquity to the theatre."
courtesy of uselessknowledge.com

Words of Wisdom

"People don't ask for facts in making up their minds. They would rather have one good, soul-satisfying emotion than a dozen facts."
- Robert Keith Leavitt

"Fall seven times, stand up eight."
-Japanese Proverb

"Suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of congress; but I repeat myself."
-Mark Twain

"Author: A fool who, not content with having bored those who have lived with him, insists on tormenting generations to come."
-Montesquieu

"We create an environment where it is all right to hate, to steal, to cheat, and to lie if we dress it up with symbols of respectability, dignity and love."
-Whitney Moore, Jr.

"Forget regret, or life is yours to miss."
-Jonathan Larson

"He who controls the past commands the future. He who commands the future conquers the past."
-George Orwell

"For of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: 'It might have been!'"
-John Greenleaf Whittier, "Maud Muller"
courtesy of quoteland.com

Where Are You From?

Maine	
Bald Head	Bath
Beans Corner Bingo	Dickey
Maryland	
Accident	Assawoman
Boring	California
Cockeysville	Hollywood
Pomonkey	Secretary
Massachusetts	
Belchertown	Braintree
Cow Yard	Dorothy Pond
Egypt	Gay Head
Marblehead	Mashpee
Sandwich	Swampscott
Ware (I'm from Ware?)	
Michigan	
Bad Axe	Olive Branch
Climax	Pine Stump
Junction	
Gay	Podunk
Hell	Slapneck
Jugville	